

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

I

Species A, figures 1-3 have the following technical feature of having four piezoactuators.

Species B, figure 4 has the following technical feature of having eight piezoactuators

II

Species A, figure 5, has the following technical feature of having a device such as a flat spring arrangement for movement amplitudes of piezoactuators.

Species B, figure 6, has the following technical feature of columns of piezoelements connected in series leading to a displaceable yoke, which has the same movement amplitudes.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply

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must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

2. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Claims 16 and 18 refer to species IA

Claims 17 and 19 refer to species IB

Claims 14 and 15 refer to species IIA

Claims 20 and 21 refer to species IIB

The following claim(s) are generic: 10-14.

3. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: As noted earlier, species election A states the first species states four piezoactuators while the second species states eight piezoactuators. Species election B states flat springs arrangement for movement amplitudes of piezoactuators while the second species states columns of piezoelements connected in series leading to a displaceable yoke which has the same movement amplitudes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erin P. Barry whose telephone number is (571) 270-3634. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8am-5pm Eastern time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sam Yao can be reached on (571) 272-1224. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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